

Appl. No. 10/560,391
Reply to Office Action Dated November 7, 2007

Remarks

Drawings

In the non-final action dated 7 November 2007, the Examiner has objected to the clarity of the drawings, in particular with regard to Figure 13. In order to address this objection, the parts of Figure 13 have been amended so as now to be designated Figures 13a, 13b and 13c as suggested by the examiner. Amendments to the specification in the brief description of the drawings and in the detailed description have been made to reflect this change. Figure 12 has been amended so as to include reference numbers 80 and 82 and the lead lines for numerals 72 and 74 amended so as to more closely correspond to Figures 13a, 13b and 13c. The perspective views of Figures 13a and 13b have been amended to include reference numerals 76 and 80, and 78 and 82 respectively. In this way, the relationship of the various structures with the corresponding parts in other figures is more clearly shown. Designations A and B have been added to Figure 13c so as to more clearly show which is which when considered in relation to the relevant part of the description.

It is believed that these amendments address the objections raised by the examiner in relation to the drawings.

Claims

Claims 2 and 4-22 are unchanged. Claims 1, 3 and 24 have been amended. Claim 23 has been canceled. Claims 25-32 are presented here for the first time.

Claim Objections

Claim 3 has been amended to use the term 'connecting member' as is used in the other claims.

With regard to the objection to claims 4, 9, 17 and 19-24, a Preliminary Amendment was filed with this application in which the dependencies of the claims was amended to avoid the use of multiple dependencies. These amended claims are the ones included in the publication of the application and are the ones used for the claims amendments presented here.

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Claim Rejections

The Examiner has rejected claims 1-6, 9, 19 and 20 under 35 USC 102(b) as being anticipated by Hendershot (5,041,060). Claim 1 has been amended to include the subject matter of claim 23 (now canceled). The Examiner has indicated that a claim directed to such subject matter would be allowable. Hendershot fails to teach such a construction and there is no teaching that would render such a construction obvious. Claims 2-22 and 24 are all dependent on amended claim 1, either directly or indirectly. Consequently they are also considered as allowable.

Allowable Subject Matter

The Examiner has indicated that the subject matter of claim 7 would be allowable if rewritten to incorporate the subject matter of the base claim (claim 1) and any intervening claims (claims 2 and 4). New claim 25 comprises such a claim. New claim 26 corresponds to claim 8 which was indicated as allowable for the same reason.

The Examiner has indicated that the subject matter of claim 10 would be allowable if rewritten to incorporate the subject matter of the base claim (claim 1) and any intervening claims (claims 2 and 9). New claim 27 comprises such a claim. New claims 28 and 29 correspond to claims 11 and 12 and are allowable for the same reason.

The Examiner has indicated that the subject matter of claim 21 would be allowable if rewritten to incorporate the subject matter of the base claim (claim 1) and any intervening claim (claims 20). New claim 31 comprises such a claim.

The Examiner has indicated that the subject matter of claim 24 would be allowable if rewritten to incorporate the subject matter of the base claim (claim 1). New claim 32 comprises such a claim.

No new matter has been added by way of these amendments. Favorable reconsideration is respectfully requested.

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The Commissioner is authorized to pay any additional fees or credit any overpayment to Deposit
Account No. 50-2183.

Respectfully submitted,

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Date

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